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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., JUNE 15, 1898.

NO. 12.

A FEW HENS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field is in the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and on the farms of all America. It contains

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon theories, but who want to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the cream and not the skim-milk of practical poultry information.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.
To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and all business matters must be sent to publication office at Boston.

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Provide shade.

Be wide awake.

Sudden showers.

Water twice a day.

Stick to your breed.

This ends Volume 1.

Now for the fruit crop.

Give us your experience.

Have you the best breed?

Tell us of your bad luck.

Get your friends to subscribe.

There is a reason for all ill-luck.

Discourage the storage business.

Carelessness and cruelty are akin.

Have we been faithful in our work?

A FEW HENS' strawberries are ripe.

Renew your subscriptions promptly.

Pets are generally killed by kindness.

Are you easily discouraged by losses?

Fanciers have no use for A FEW HENS.

Load the shotgun for the chicken thief.

Got any secrets? Tell them to our folks.

Don't let your neighbor get ahead of you.

Beware of the smart Aleck who knows it all.

Duck manure is strictly first-class for gardening.

Wanted—more thoroughbreds and less mongrels.

Big improvements ahead—renew your subscription at once.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Duck Experiences—Strong Fertility—An Unwelcome Visitor—A New Chick Feed—Our Feed House.

We believe the test for determining dampness in a room or cellar is to run an incubator in it. As mentioned in a former issue of A FEW HENS, we started our incubators in a cellar (temporarily) until we could find time to erect an incubator house. No signs of dampness were ever seen, and yet during three trials of the machines with duck eggs, we were unable to properly dry them down, which is one of the best evidences that the cellar is damp. Believing that duck eggs are more difficult to dry down than those from hens, we have changed the order of things, and have now charged our machines with hen eggs, and will utilize our broody hens to hatch those from ducks. We will know in another month if the cellar is too damp for hen eggs.

We cooled the eggs, twice a day, down to 85 degrees, and still were unable to properly dry them down. Not a drop of moisture was used until the day the hatch was due. Yet, without that, the ducks came out weak, and our losses were heavy. We hope to have better success with our future hatches.

The breeding ducks are not at fault. They are large, strong birds in the pink of condition, and doing excellent work in laying. The trouble lies solely in our inability to properly dry down the eggs in the cellar. More anon.

The Brahma, Wyandotte and Leghorn eggs have done well under hens. The chicks are strong and our losses very small. As we were compelled to set quite a number of Brahma hens, we lost a number of chicks by the hens stepping on them. Brahmas and Cochins are faithful incubators and brooders, but they are so clumsy.

We sold quite a lot of eggs for hatching and the reports have been very gratifying.

For instance, F. S. Rice, Maplewood, N. J., bought 186 Leghorn eggs and reported all fertile and all hatched except eight, which died in the shell.

F. H. Waite, Oradell, N. J., writes: "I hatched 12 chicks from the 15 White Leghorn eggs you sent me. One egg got broken in the nest, one germ died about the 11th day, and one egg was infertile."

We could give equally as good testimonials for our Brahmas and Wyandottes—one party

reported 29 chicks from 30 Light Brahma eggs; another 14 chicks from 15 White Wyandotte eggs. We could give more but it is not necessary. The point we wish to bring out is that it is better to have good sized families than too small ones. The past season has taught us that 15 hens to one vigorous male, in Light Brahmas, is about right. Last year we had nine females to a male, and before the season was over several of our best hens were broken down by the close attention of a vigorous cockerel. We find, too, from 15 to 20 females to one male in Wyandottes, is right; and 30 females to one good male in Leghorns, will bring good results.

Of course, in such heavy matings, the fowls must be kept busy and the proper food must be supplied.

Since last issue of A FEW HENS we have had a very unwelcome visitor. On the rear of our two-acre plant we had quartered 13 houses and runs with young chicks (described in our December issue). With all but two flocks, the mother hens were in charge of these broods. About seven o'clock one evening, after we had closed in the young, we went to the post office for our evening mail, and returned home about an hour later. We then strolled about the place to see if we had properly closed up all the houses. Imagine our surprise to find several of the houses torn open, and among the lot a mother hen taken from her brood of 11 small chicks. With neither a revolver nor a dog in sight, it is needless to say the unwelcome visitor—a chicken thief—got away. Yet our loss was not heavy. We came upon the culprit too suddenly for him to get much plunder. We lost the hen aforesaid, and three Brahma chicks (about two pounds each in weight). Had we not appeared just then, our loss would have been in the neighborhood of 200 head. Since then we have secured both a revolver and a savage dog, but the enemy, it seems, will not reappear.

That same night a number of neighboring hen roosts were also robbed, causing heavy loss. The town has put up a reward for the capture of the thief or thieves, and as this plan practically makes everybody a detective, the guilty party is keeping very quiet.

The Single Comb White Leghorn and the White Wyandotte eggs sent us by Geo. R. Hyde, Appleton, N. Y., noted in last issue, gave an excellent hatch, viz.: 12 Leghorn chicks from 13 eggs; 13 Wyandotte chicks from 13 eggs. The chicks are vigorous and doing remarkably well.

The eggs sent us by W. W. Kulp, Pottstown, Pa. (which included Brown and Buff Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks, etc.) did not do so well, owing to the contrariness of a setting hen. Still we received six chicks from eleven eggs set. These chicks, too, show remarkable stamina.

We have been trying a new chick feed, which so far is giving excellent results. To 3 parts of bran, cornmeal, rolled oats and Pioneer clover meal, we add one part each of middlings, and Bowker's animal meal. The mixture is scalded and fed warm morning and evening. In this mixture we gain bone, muscle and fat food at the same time. The mess is eagerly cleaned up by the chicks. Besides, three times a day, we give all the whole wheat the chicks will eat. Charcoal is added twice a week and small grit is constantly before them. We begin this feed after the chicks are ten days old. Up to that time we give F. P. C. Chick Manna. As green food is rather scarce with us, the Pioneer clover meal affords an excellent substitute, and the animal meal furnishes the advantages gained in a hunt for bugs and worms. Twice a week we give the chicks green cut bone, and it is a sight to see them fight for it. With this feeding the chicks are doing well in their runs, 2x12 feet. By keeping them busy we are losing nothing in their growth or vigor. When they average about 1 1/2 pounds each, we turn them into a fifty foot run (4x4 house), previously sown to oats, and as the latter are up several inches, the chicks have crisp greens to feast upon.

Our feed house is practically completed. At least it is so far done that we can occupy it. It is 16x20 feet in size, 7 feet high on sides, and has a double-pitch roof. The house stands about a foot above ground. Four half-sash windows are in the house—two in front, one on the back and one on the north side. On the south and west sides are doors three feet wide and six feet high. The west side door is used to enter the building. The door on the south side will be used to get into the incubator room, after the latter is built. On the side of each door a board is screwed fast instead of nailed, so that it can be readily removed in case we have a box, incubator or something else to take through, which would need a wider space than a three foot door would allow. The floor of the house is made of regular flooring. Five bins, 4x4 feet are made for holding feed. A mixing trough, Granite State feed cooker, Mann bone cutter and Evans root cutter, constitute the machinery at present, but a clover cutter and a charcoal grinder will soon be added.

Our bill for lumber for this house is as follows:

2 pieces 4x4—16 Hemlock.....	\$.73
2 " 4x4—20 "93
8 " 2x6—16 "	2.05
10 " 2x4—20 "	2.20
5 " 2x3—14 "	
4 " 2x3—16 "	
3 " 2x3—20 "	1.94
400 feet No. 2 flooring.....	8.00
616 " Hemlock stock boards.....	11.71
880 " shingling lath.....	5.28
2500 " No. 2 18-inch shingles	6.88
4 pieces 8x10, 6-light sash	2.40
60 red brick.....	.66
500 shingles, extra	2.76

Total..... \$45.54

The brick were used for piers. We ran a little short on shingles, so had to buy 500 more, as stated above.

Batting was used over the cracks between the doors on the sides, which, with paint, nails, etc., and \$36.00 for labor in building, brought the cost up to about one hundred dollars. The above bill of lumber does not include the bins, as they were made principally from odds and ends, but what had to be bought for them is included in the estimate of one hundred dollars.

We wish to add that we are more than encouraged with the work and returns so far this year. We have not done as much building as we contemplated, but will have double the capacity before the year ends. We are going slow but sure, for we want to establish this plant and that living on a safe foundation.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Secrets—Shipping Too Large Eggs—The Influence of the Male Bird—The Flavor of the Egg Can be Tainted—The Kind of Eggs Not to Set—The Early Laying Pullet.

Remember these secrets for egg production:

Grit,
Health,
Exercise,
Egg food,
Pure food,
Green food,
Clover hay,
Fresh water,
Young stock,
Green cut bone,
Freedom from lice,
Regularity in feeding,
Cool houses in summer,
Warm houses in winter.

The loafing hen is a poor layer.

War times—eggs down—feed up!

Don't let low prices discourage you.

Guinea eggs are said to be the richest.

It is said New York uses 5,000,000 eggs a day.

The rooster has no influence on egg production.

The broody hens are lowering the number of layers.

When the hen lays soft-shelled eggs, look for the cause.

Checking egg production in summer to increase it in fall is a mistake.

Formerly the highest prices for eggs were after the holidays, now they are before.

It is said that out of 1,300,183 dozens of eggs exported last year, 953,593 dozens were sent to Cuba.

Preserving eggs in summer to sell in winter as "fresh," is keeping the market rate down for "honest goods."

There is one thing A FEW HENS will never teach: "How to preserve eggs." There is too much dishonesty attached to it.

Felch says that where the attention of the male becomes a perfect harassment, the nervous derangement may decrease the egg product.

E. Van Every, in *Fanciers' Monthly*, advises to pack eggs in cases for shipment, small end of egg down. They look larger and more uniform if packed in this manner.

James Rankin says: "Whenever we have removed the male fowl after the breeding season was over, it has always seemed to us that the egg production was much increased."

"Beauty should be measured by the egg record," says A FEW HENS. This is a debatable question. There will always be buyers at long prices for fowls with fancy points, and fancy points are detrimental to egg records. On the other hand, the breeder who has a flock of hens bred so as to make egg records has a bonanza. Pay your money and take your choice.—*Southern Fancier*.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.00 for 100 pounds.
I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

EGGS from B. P. Rocks and White Wyandottes. Bred for layers. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

JAMES W. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa. Breeder of sixteen leading varieties of Poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 60. Catalogue Free.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Great layers; Large size; Vigorous stock; Some of them non setters. At Hartford, Jan., '98, entered seven birds. They won 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th. Eggs \$2 per 13; \$5 per 39. W. H. SHUTE, Middletown, Conn.

I. K. Felch says: "The pullet that commences to lay earliest in life is the one to lay the largest number of eggs through life, as cattle that have the milk-producing organs active make the best cows. Select the fast growing, early-maturing specimens that present in full the type and size found in the breed, and use only these as breeders, and the egg-producing merits will be increased. It is care and attention to the flock that finds and secures these merits in the progeny. Neglect and haphazard breeding never pays."

F. H. Valentine, in his market report in *Rural New-Yorker*, says one wholesaler said that in every case of eggs received from one shipper, several were broken because of their size. The cases and fillers are made to hold fair sized eggs, but these were of such extra size that they stuck up above the general level, hence, in filling and handling the cases, were crushed. It isn't often that large size is an objection in eggs, but it seems to be in this case. The best way in marketing eggs is to take out all that are very large or very small, as uniformity in size adds to their good appearance.

A correspondent of the *English Fanciers' Gazette* says he has been watching his hens and their eggs and the hatching of their eggs, and has discovered that the eggs of the abnormally fat hen seldom hatch. The chicken dies about the tenth or twelfth day of incubation. The eggs from the most active and healthy hens hatch first, and often a day or two in advance of time. Invariably the eggs from the sleepy, lazy hen hatches late. He has two hens whose eggs he has never found fertile, though he has mated them with different roosters, and they are the worst tempered hens in the yard, always quarreling and beating the others.

We once heard an old physician say, says the *Cultivator*, that when obliged to remain at some houses so long that it was necessary or desirable to eat there, he always chose to have one or two eggs boiled for him. The impression conveyed was that he thought that nothing unclean could be inside the egg shell. But if he could have seen some of the messes that are fed out to hens, or that hens feed upon, he would have scarcely have felt so sure of having wholesome food even when he broke the egg shell. Many people do not understand that an unpleasant flavor can be fed into an egg as easily as it can into milk, and that only such food should be given to the fowl as is perfectly fresh and free from objectionable odors or flavors.

Utility and Beauty combined in my Black Minorcas and Buff Rocks. Prolific layers; large, healthy, vigorous stock; raised on unlimited range. Eggs in season. FRED. E. PILE, Cleveland, Ohio.

EGGS. S. C. White and S. C. Brown Leghorn. First quality stock. \$1.00 per 13. A Wooden hen, \$4. W. Hahman, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS. Strictly pure bred. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13. Pekin Ducks (Rankin's) Eggs, \$1.00 per 11. Large package plush pieces for patchwork, free with every order. CHARLIE H. HARDEN, McConnellsville, N. Y.

The GREATEST of LAYERS

and New York Winners.

Eggs only \$1.00 per set; seventy-five eggs for \$5.00. Barred and White Rocks, White Wyandottes, Rose and S. C. Brown Leghorns, S. C. White Leghorns, Bl. Minorcas, Bl. Langshans, Big Pekin Ducks, Lt. Brahmas, Buff Leghorns. Eggs \$1.50 per set. W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.



It Destroys Vermin on Animals.

Especially recommended to poultry keepers for destroying that pest of the poultry house, **LICE**. It also prevents the breeding of vermin where freely used. Ten lbs. \$1.00. E. WHITNEY & Co., Natick, Mass.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Cause of Mortality Among Young—Hints in Caring for Breeding Stock—The Muscovy—Good Laying by Pekins.

Cause of mortality among young:

Overheat,
Dampness,
Getting wet,
Lack of grit,
Grey head lice,
Sudden showers,
Delayed hatches,
Exposure to sun,
Lack of fresh water,
Drinking vessels too shallow,
Breeding stock out of condition.

Disinfect the duck runs.

Market at ten weeks of age.

Provide shade for old and young.

Clean out the houses every week.

Is the market becoming glutted?

Too much heat kills young ducks.

Hens are poor mothers for ducklings.

Put fresh bedding in the house daily.

Prices for duck meat are low this season.

Don't feed meat to the ducklings the first week.

Clean out the duck troughs each time before watering.

Land ducks should have fresh water three times a day.

July and August are good months to get out market ducks.

When ducks are overfat they are apt to die during laying season.

The fresher the egg the better the hatch and stronger the duck.

Ducklings in summer are a good adjunct to broiler raising in winter.

Ducks should have green food or steeped clover hay at least once a day.

Complaints come from all quarters of poor stamina in young ducks this year.

Land ducks are more easily overfatted than those allowed bathing water.

Weber Bros. exercise their ducks by scattering whole corn in the runs at noon.

Double runs for ducks are advisable—grow rye or oats in the run not occupied.

See that the drinking vessels are deep enough so the duck or duckling can get its head in water.

The California *Poultry Keeper* announces that the Muscovy ducks are again coming into great favor in that country.

A fat Muscovy is as fine eating as ever graced the plate of an epicure, but it costs altogether too much, says the *Texas Farm and Ranch*. To raise Muscovy ducks to eating age one must suffer agonies of a perpetual annoyance, a perpetual stench and an almost unbearable nuisance.

"I have a pen of Pekin ducks (eggs from Mr. Rankin last year)," writes F. Christman, Bucks county, Pa., to A FEW HENS, "which I would like to see beaten for laying. They began to lay the middle of January, and have laid so far (up to May 17) 370 eggs. There are four females and one male. Four eggs for 19 consecutive days and then they laid three eggs, and since then they have been laying four eggs daily."

About Broilers and Roasters.

The Broiler Standard—A Few Words About Capons—Hints on Marketing—The Spring Chicken—Vigorous vs. Fancy Stock.

Here is the broiler standard:

Head—Short.
Breast—Broad, deep, full.
Comb—Small—rose or pea.
Weight—1 1/2 to 2 pounds each.
Body—Short, deep, well rounded.
Back—Short, broad and flat at the shoulders.
Color of Skin—Rich yellow; free from pin feathers.
Legs—Short and stout thighs; short and stout shanks; free from feathers; bright yellow in color.

Summer broilers pay.

Pullet broilers sell best.

Broilers are in good demand.

Cold-storage broilers are said to be scarce.

New York city is a dressed poultry market.

Poultry meat will be in demand all summer.

In marketing, have cockerels in separate lots.

Advertise the farm on every box and package.

Hammonton, N. J., developed the broiler business.

"Spring chickens and waffles" is a Pennsylvania treat.

"Barbecues" were in fashion before the existence of the broiler.

The capon is to poultry what the steer is to beef, and the barrow to pork.

Free-range broilers are not so good as those raised in houses and runs.

Caponizing is an art that requires continual practice to be successful.

To James Rankin belongs the credit for creating the prime market roaster.

Shipping dressed fowls is more profitable than sending live ones to market.

Turning cheap eggs into broilers or roasters is more honorable work than preserving them.

The spring chicken is hatched not earlier than February nor later than May, and is marketable when two or three pounds in weight.

Strong parents make strong chicks—strong chicks are active and quick growing—quick growth makes the juicy, meaty broiler and roaster.

David Larson, in a lecture before the Nebraska Farmers' Institute, said Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes are without doubt the chickens for the market, as they have the finest appearance of any when dressed. Both have yellow skin, clean yellow shanks, and not too much comb.

D. D. Shirley, in *Progressive Poultry Journal*, says that in Iowa caponizing has wrought a great revolution in the poultry industry. Instead of getting \$1.00 a dozen for "old roosters," they are realizing from 40 to 90 cents apiece for the same class of birds as capons. Over \$2,300 was paid for capons alone during the

winter of 1896-7, at his station (Allerton). When it came to farmers' wives getting from 40 to 90 cents for birds that had heretofore been sold for 8 1/3 to 10 cents apiece, it set them to thinking.

Arby Hodge, of Indiana, writes A FEW HENS that for five years he has been raising White Wyandottes for broilers. When he first started he tried to raise Standard birds, or birds with milk-white plumage. But he soon found that such fowls were weak and had not the vitality of their brothers and sisters with a brassy tinge. He wanted birds that were strong and laid brown eggs. The past three years he has been breeding for vigor and hardiness, and how well he succeeded is shown in this report: February 14, he hatched 265 and raised 260 of them. In March he hatched 272 and raised 268. At four weeks old his chicks average a half pound each. He tested but ten infertile eggs from 368 chicks, the last setting. He has lost but two chickens from sickness the past year.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. Our strain of Buff Leghorns have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows. Prolific layers. \$2.00 per 13. C. W. FRANKLIN, Norwich, N. Y.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

35 Thoroughbred B. P. Rock Cockerels for sale at \$1.50 each. B. P. R. Eggs, \$1 per 13. Buff Cochins, Partridge Cochins, and Light Brahma eggs, \$2.00 per 13. Dr. H. Somerville, Chester Springs, Pa.

CUT CLOVER HAY

\$2.00 per 100 pounds. 50 pounds, \$1.10. Best on the market. Send for circular. WOODHID FARM, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

EGGS ARE WANTED

by all poultry keepers. How to get them is told in our pamphlets, which we send free to all interested in poultry.

FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS,
Bay City, Mich.

THE STAR INCUBATOR.

(Invention of G. A. McFETRIDGE.)

Perfect in Regulation, Ventilation and Radiation.

Catalogue Free.

STAR INCUBATOR and BROODER CO., Bound Brook, N. J.



EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR.
Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.
GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers,

WOODEN HEN
Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 28 egg capacity. Catalogue free.
114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.



EUREKA NEST BOX

It tells you Which Hens Lay. It is Easy to Build.

From Cornell Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 27, 1898.—The idea of your Eureka Nest Box seems to be a very good one. Yours truly, H. H. WING.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, formerly of R. I. Agricultural Experiment Station, says: "I certainly think your nest box is the most practical and feasible of anything I have seen."

I SELL THE PLANS.

HART NEST YARDS, Framingham, Mass.

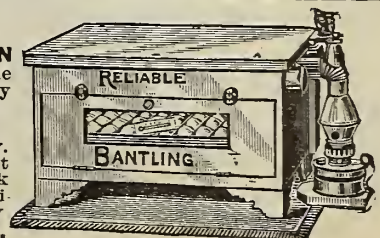
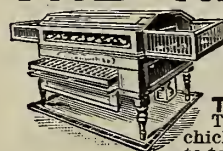
THE HATCHING HEN

HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way

RELIABLE INCUBATORS AND BROODERS

They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 224 page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reli-

able Poultry Farms. Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Send for it now **Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Illinois.**



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EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

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EDITORIAL.

With this number of A FEW HENS we complete our first year of publication. It does not seem like a year since we placed our initial issue before the poultry fraternity; how time flies. We are not only thankful, but really surprised at the hearty support the paper has received from the start. Fully double the amount of subscriptions have been secured than what we expected, and the words of praise, which continue to come from all quarters, assures us that A FEW HENS is, as a correspondent puts it,—"just the style of paper wanted years ago."

We hope that all subscriptions expiring with this issue will be promptly renewed, and that A FEW HENS' family will be three times as large during Volume II as it is at present. We promise great improvements for the coming year, and every effort will be used to get out a much better paper. Our motto is: Make each succeeding number better than the last.

Here comes an endorsement which rather pleases us. If the reader will excuse us for repeating the personal praise (which we feel we must do to give the letter complete), we will add that Bennett & Sons did not at first feel inclined to advertise with us, feeling, no doubt, that A FEW HENS being a new publication it could not have much of a circulation. In this we fooled them, as we have scores of others.

But here is the letter:

"FRIEND BOYER: Please accept our sincere thanks for your kind endorsement of the Champion Brooder, in the recent issue of A FEW HENS. This endorsement will be of untold value to us, coming from the foremost poultry authority in the country.

"We are getting excellent results from our advertisement in A FEW HENS. Your readers place the utmost confidence in your opinion, and since having the notice in the paper that you were going to try one of the Champion Brooders on your farm, and would give the result later, we have had a number of inquiries for circulars, and the writers would mention that they saw the notice and would wait for your opinion. In this morning's mail we received two orders from the same parties, and in their letter say they saw Boyer's endorsement of the brooder, and that it must be all right."

There are at present four strictly business poultry papers published, viz.: A FEW HENS, Farm-Poultry, Poultry Farmer and Poultry Keeper. By "business poultry papers" we mean publications that belong to the utility class. Of the four, Farm-Poultry is the only one that leans

anyway to the fancy, as it publishes show reports, but, at the same time, two-thirds of the contents of that journal are devoted to poultry for profit. Poultry Keeper does not meddle with the fancy unless the editor sees a chance to kick (Jacobs loves to pose in that position). Strictly speaking there are only two journals that stick closely to the utility line: A FEW HENS and Poultry Farmer.

There are other "half-and-half" journals—half fancy and half practical, as, for instance, the Poultry Monthly, Ohio Poultry Journal, American Poultry Journal, American Poultry Advocate, Reliable Poultry Journal, Practical Poultryman, and others. The American Fancier is the only strictly fanciers' newspaper, and it enjoys a wide circulation and respect as such.

A FEW HENS, however, enjoys the distinction of being the only poultry journal that does not publish long, windy articles. It uses brevity as the foundation for all its matter. It believes that what can be fully stated in a few lines is better than filling a column. It works on the principle that "a few" well taken care of, is better than "many" half attended to. That applies to both lines in poultry matter, and fowls in poultry yards.

So with four practical poultry journals, and the rest, with one exception, devoted half to practical poultry culture, the utility ranks are being gradually strengthened.

A FEW HENS wants to see more practical poultry breeders and less poultry fanciers. It believes that such work means better poultry, better success and better satisfaction. The next move (already nobly begun in Boston) will be for the poultry shows to devote half their space to practical poultry exhibits.

The Light Brahma breeders, and the poultry fraternity at large, lose a valuable friend and co-worker, in the death of Elbridge C. Comey, of Somerville, Mass. Mr. Comey was the originator of the Duke of York strain, one of the most practical strains of Light Brahmas in the country. He had utility at heart, and believed beauty was a farce so long as it meant only outside adornment. He wanted egg records with fine feathers, and the Duke of York birds testified to his ability and belief in that direction.

Reports from all over the country tell of remarkable fertility this spring, and the question has been raised: What is the real cause of it? We can only answer with a theory, viz.: the mild winter through which we have passed, has allowed the fowls to be more outdoors, and in consequence they have been doing considerable exercising. This exercising kept them from accumulating too much fat. A too-fat hen will give poorly fertilized eggs. So much for our theory.

Now let us state a fact: It must be argued that this range which fowls were able to take during winter, gave them much exercise—but how about the fowls confined to runs? The fact is, they have been made to exercise. Poultry keepers have learned that without proper exercising no degree of success can be attained, and they have provided scratching sheds, and bedded even parts of the runs, scattering grain among the litter. The result has been, the fowls had to either work or go hungry. It is needless to say they worked.

We may be wrong in our theory, but we know we are right in the fact we have stated. The poultry business has been revolutionized by exercising.

For years poultry authorities have been trying to locate the cause for gapes in young chickens. Many theories have been advanced—such as

lice, earthworms, tainted ground, etc. For some years before living in New Jersey, we held to the belief that lice were more or less the cause, but, we now admit, after ten years experience with poultry in a sandy country, we have changed our opinion. We have allowed chicks to become literally covered with lice and did not lose one of them with gapes. On the other hand, we have fed broods of chicks on earthworms—all they would eat—and not a case of gapes. So we have narrowed our belief down to tainted earth. In countries where the soil is heavy, where water will stand, and the ground remain muddy for several days after a hard rain, the droppings from the fowls and chicks are not carried away, and this, in time, breeds worms. The fact that not raising chicks on the same for one or two years where gapey chicks have been, has for a time stamped out the disease, is good evidence that we are not far from right in our belief.

Here in Hammonton, where the soil is sandy, it can rain hard all night, and after the sun is up next day, no signs of water or dampness can be found. For ten years our poultry yards have been used by fowls, and in that time not once cleaned out, and for one to see them would be to suppose that they had been having a regular cleaning at least once a week. The fact that our soil is always clean, and that a case of gapes has never been known in the town (where thousands of chicks are annually raised), is pretty strong evidence that the gape worm owes its origin to a tainted soil.

There is no telling what surprises the express companies will spring on a person. We shipped a basket of eggs each week, for three weeks in succession, to a party in the northern part of New Jersey, and the express charges were 45 cents, 50 cents and 55 cents, respectively. Presume, if we had kept on shipping, they would cost a dollar by now. As the same kind of eggs, same baskets and same packing were used, we could not understand why this gradual rise in price, and neither could the express agent here say.

While on this subject, we might quote an instance, given by Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., in a personal letter:

"I have just had an unusual experience with the express people. Mrs. C. has a cousin in Portland, Oregon, and he offered to send her some Mongolian Pheasant eggs. They came from a small town in Oregon, where they could not pay the express charges, and he wrote to send him the bill and he would pay it. In due time the eggs arrived in an ordinary splint basket, and the bill was—

From Salem, Oregon, to Kansas City, 26c.
Kansas City, to Glenside, Pa., 14c.

Total, 40c.

"It just took my breath away, after paying 75 cents from New York state."

Editor Curtis, of the Reliable Poultry Journal, who also owns and operates a poultry farm, in the June issue gives his experience with capons. He heads the article: "A Record that Somebody Ought to be Ashamed of." He tells how he started in last September under a full head of steam to astonish the natives, and as many other people as possible, by what he was going to do with a flock of capons. And then, disgusted at the work, he consoles himself as follows:

"It relieves our pride some to be able to say that we personally have had nothing to do with the care of these steadily diminishing cocks. We are glad to have our men in a position where we can blame them. This is a great comfort. No doubt others have felt this way, too. We do not claim to be original in it."

P. H. Jacobs some years ago got off a similar excuse. He started a broiler plant "just to show the other fellows how it can be done." And when the old thing would not work, we learned

that Mr. Jacobs was very busy, and had to leave the management to his father, who was old, etc., etc.

Now A FEW HENS is going to take a lesson from these great men, and not "bite off more than we can chew." We are going to stick to our text—keep "a few hens." We are going to continue the management ourselves, and we are going to confine ourselves to two acres, as we started out to do. We will make mistakes and failures, just like these great editors have done, and as are annually made on all poultry farms—but, we promise this much, we are not going to blame the hired man. Our office is right on the farm. We manage the work and a trustworthy young man performs the labor—we filling in our time with editorial work.

Editors are too busy to do much of the work themselves, but they should do all the managing. If they find the work requires too much care, they should cut down the capacity to suit the time. Readers of poultry papers want to know what the *editor* has done, and not what was performed by "the hired man." It is the editor's work when he dictates; it is his instructions and orders that must count for success or failure. Poor hired man! If he makes a failure he is to shoulder the blame. If he makes a success, the conceited editor marches off with the credit.

* * *

In recent issues of A FEW HENS, we noted the success attained by A. J. Silberstein, proprietor of the Hartnest Poultry Farm, Framingham, Mass., with his pedigreed Light Brahmas. Mr. Silberstein is also the inventor of the Eureka nest box, by which he is enabled to tell the exact number of eggs each individual hen lays in a year. In this manner, too, he can tell what hens are apt to lay infertile eggs, etc.

In order to give Hartnest Brahmas a test, we ordered twenty-eight eggs, five of which were laid by pullet No. 40; four by No. 48; three by No. 93; three by No. 14; four by No. 21; six by No. 95; three by No. 45. Along with these came the pedigree, which informed us that pullet No. 40 was mated to a cockerel that scored 92, and weighed 12 1-2 pounds. The pullet was hatched May 17, 1897, and now weighs 7 pounds, 2 ounces. She began laying November 19, 1897, and laid to date (April 30) 119 eggs; average weight of each egg in grains, 860. The pullet scores 90. The pullet's dam had an egg record of 177, and weighed 6 1-2 pounds. The pullet's sire weighed 10 3-4 pounds. The cockerel's dam laid 171 eggs, and weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces. The cockerel's sire weighed 10 3-4 pounds. Pullet No. 40 laid 6 eggs in November; 14 in December; 22 in January; 22 in February; 30 in March; and 25 in April.

And so on the record is given of others.

We set the eggs—13 under a White Wyandotte pullet, and 15 under a Brahma hen. The pullet hatched every egg. The Brahma hen set a week and then left her nest. We replaced her with a mongrel Plymouth Rock hen, and she gave up in another week. Then we placed the eggs in an incubator we had running at the time, and kept them there until they began to pip, when we handed them over to the White Wyandotte pullet to finish, which she did in fine shape. Every egg was fertile, and all but two hatched, they dying in the shell. That is a record to be proud of, and we congratulate Mr. S. upon his work. The chicks are strong, vigorous and of good size, and are perfect pictures with their profuse leg and toe feathering.

What interests us mostly in Mr. Silberstein's Light Brahmas is that they have such great egg records. We are breeding Felch Brahmas, which come the nearest to our ideal of Brahmas and now with the introduction of blood from

Hartnest, we hope to have strong business birds next year.

This idea of pedigree stock, and knowing the history of each bird bred from, originated in the fertile brain of the Honorable Uncle Isaac K. Felch. We have now in our possession cards used by Mr. Felch and his brother Henry (also an old-time Brahma crank), which give the history of each bird sold, giving all worth knowing of the ancestors. We claim that this is the only true way in which to know just what one is buying. It is by far a better way than to buy stock on their scores, for the bird that scores one thing today will hit another mark tomorrow. What the poultry fraternity wants is not the record by score but the record by eggs. All hail to Uncle Felch for originating such a noble system, and Mr. Silberstein for perfecting the same.

* * *

L. B. Biingham, Ohio, writes: "Of four poultry papers which I am taking, I like A FEW HENS the best."

Geo. B. Robbins, New York, writes: *Farm-Poultry* and A FEW HENS have helped me so that I can show 250 fine hens and over 400 March chicks.

Wm. H. Jones, Pennsylvania, writes: "Your A FEW HENS is looked for, as soon as the middle of the month comes, by my seven children, and pronounced by them the best of the five poultry papers that I get."

Arby Hodge, Indiana, writes: "I have taken A FEW HENS ever since the first of the year, and must say if I shall stop all the poultry papers but yours, I would still get all that is necessary to know, boiled down, in A FEW HENS. Long may it live and prosper."

Geese for Profit.

Prof. Cushman's Advice on Raising Goslings—Cider Apples—Hatching Goose Eggs—Geese Love Music.

Practically, the goose is a grazer.

Goose mothers are apt to crush their young.

Geese can be raised best without bathing water.

The fresher the egg the better the hatch and the stronger the gosling.

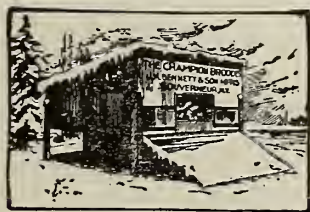
It is said that a pair of Toulouse geese will turn off two dollars worth of feathers in a year.

The *Western Rural* says that eggs fed to goslings should not be boiled too hard; just so the yolk is sticky.

When laying geese become broody, they can be broken up by being shut off their nests for five or six days.

Goslings must have water always at hand to wash down their food, and it should not only be renewed very frequently but given in such a way that they cannot get into it.

Geese should be treated with great gentleness and have full confidence in their keeper. A nervous, quick-motivated, excitable or rough person may keep them so disturbed that they cannot thrive.

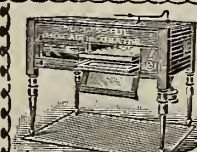


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The \$5.00 CHAMPION BROODER.

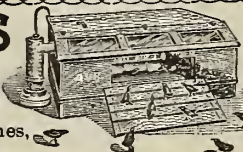
The only Practical Brooder on the market for outdoor and indoor use. Can be used in the fiercest snow storm outdoors equally as well as indoors. Beware of brooders having double floors and safety compartments, as we hold the exclusive patents on this style of brooder, and will prosecute all infringements. Top heat and three feet square. Send for catalogue. 100 chick size \$5.00.

J. A. BENNETT & SONS, Gouverneur, N. Y.



POSITIVE MONEY MAKERS

THE NEW STYLE SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR AND BROODER. Our NEW CATALOGUE and BOOK on POULTRY tells all about them and many OTHER THINGS the poultry man should know; worth a dollar but we send it for 6c. in stamps. Address the **Des Moines Incubator Co.** 423 Iowa.



Ordinarily, not over two or three per cent of goslings should die after the second or third day, says Prof. Cushman. "Most experienced goose raisers say they are about as sure to raise goslings as colts, accidents excepted."

In cider making time a few bushels of seedling apples, that will keep well, should be laid by in the cellar for the geese, says *American Fancier*. It is worth all the trouble just to see the evident enjoyment with which they eat them, to say nothing of the promotion of their thrift.

Whether your goose eggs are set under hens or turkeys, they should be sprinkled during the incubating period, says Prof. Cushman, in *Country Gentleman*. In this section it is done twice per week after the fifteenth day, and more freely just before the twenty-eighth day, when they commence to hatch.

As a rule it is not best to hatch goslings until you can put them on new grass, says the *Country Gentleman*. If you can, however, give them all the green rye and lettuce they can eat, from the time they are removed from the nest, the earlier you get them hatched the better, as it is the earliest goslings that bring the highest price and give the most profit, if sold at the right time and in the right market.

"I believe that goslings are better off if they receive nothing but tender grass and water the first time they are put out, or before they are 48 hours old," says Prof. Cushman. "The next day they should be fed two or three times, but very lightly, with scalded cracked corn. This is probably as good food as can be given from then on, provided they have at all times an abundance of tender grass to eat and the amount of cracked corn fed is such as will always leave them hungry for grass. An exclusive diet of grain or dough, without plenty of grass, or too great a quantity even with grass, will spoil them—cause them to lose the use of their legs and die."

A. V. Meersch, gives this interesting item in the *American Fancier*: Geese have music in their toes or their souls, or somewhere. Start a violin and a flock of wild geese will almost invariably prance to its strains. But not every goose will dance to the music of a commonplace accordian, and when one is found who will perform a jig to its measure, his doings should be duly chronicled. In Lanesboro, Pa., one was discovered the other day which became fairly intoxicated with glee at the sound of an accordian. He danced a jig, keeping admirable time to the music. After the experience had been tried two or three times, his taste for the pleasure became so pronounced that he would venture up the piazza of the house with the evident intention of inviting further music.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined. Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

Turkey Culture.

Fattening Foods—The American Bronze—Mortality Among Young—Value of Turkey Meat—Hatching—Marketing—Turkey Broilers.

Hard boiled eggs are a treat to young turkeys. Dampness kills nearly as many poults as lice do. Never allow two broody hens to share the same nest.

Turkeys should have broad perches on which to roost.

The market demand for good turkeys is never satisfied.

Overfeeding and lack of freedom will produce indigestion.

Perches should not be more than two feet from the ground.

Scalded curd or ordinary Dutch cheese is the ideal food for young turkeys.

Nothing is so objectionable as a turkey with a crooked breast when trussed.

Some turkey raisers do not give the young water to drink until they are a month old.

While fattening, turkeys require plenty of ventilation, fresh air, and should have a good supply of grit, sand and lime rubbish to aid indigestion.

Three weeks are considered sufficient time for fattening the hens, and a little longer for the cocks, provided the birds are in good condition when put up.

Troughs should be used for food, and these are best made with a rail attached, say from 4 to 6 inches from the top, so that the birds cannot step inside and upset them.

A correspondent in English *Poultry* writes that the small farmer with a circumscribed area of five acres of land, might rear annually for several years from 50 to 100 birds.

Prof. Cushman, in *American Agriculturist*, says if the little turkeys die immediately after hatching, and before they have been fed or watered, they probably are from weak or run-out stock, or have been improperly incubated.

I have learned by experience that the more you let a turkey alone after it is big enough to hunt, the better it is off, says a correspondent in *Western Rural*. Feed them regularly, let them roost out of doors, and they are a very healthy fowl.

You never lose money on young and growing turkeys if you keep them until after the holidays are over, says *Western Rural*. Turkeys are light eaters in the whole, and constantly growing until one year old, and it costs no more to raise a good sized turkey than a little one.

At certain seasons of the year turkeys are in great demand, says Iowa *Homestead*, and it is safe to say that a pound of turkey meat is worth as much as one and one-half to two pounds of pork, and often three times as much, although the cost of the two does not differ greatly.

Potatoes, swedes, mangolds, boiled soft and mixed with ground oats, barley meal, buckwheat meal or corn meal, constitute good fattening foods. The French fatten with beetroot, artichokes or potatoes, boiled and mixed with meal, and give acorns, chestnuts and walnuts. The latter, they consider, give a delicious flavor to the meat.

When you handle your turkeys, especially if they are large ones, be careful about their claws, writes C. P. Reynolds, in *American Fancier*. A slight scratch is quite painful and may even prove serious. The writer has just had a little practical experience in this line and a "game" hand is the result. A gloved hand is the safest.

W. H. Rudd, in *American Agriculturist*, says there has been quite a demand for young turkeys to broil, during the early and late summer, for several years past, and the demand seems to be increasing. We should think a good weight at three months of age would be three to four pounds each, and this is the weight desired for broilers.

There is a distinct prejudice against turkeys on the grounds of their being delicate and difficult to rear. Never was their a greater fallacy, says a writer in English *Poultry*. When the weather is unkind during the early stages of growth, the birds require more attention than

chickens; but given an ordinary summer the difficulties of rearing these birds exist only in the abstract.

The question is often asked, can turkey eggs be successfully hatched under common hens? says a writer in *Tri-State Farm News*. There is no doubt but what it can be done, as has been repeatedly demonstrated, but whether one can get the best quality of stock from poults so hatched and reared, is quite a different matter. We have entirely given up the idea of trying to raise young turkeys by any means other than by their natural mothers. While it is very true that turkeys can be reared by domestic hens with more or less success, it is entirely impossible to attain the lusty, vigorous growth of stock that have developed under the charge of the mother turkey.

An English writer pays this tribute to the American Bronze turkey: There are two points to consider before choosing the breed of turkey—viz.: whether the birds are to be reared with the purpose of making a profit from them, or whether they are only for home consumption. If the former, I have no hesitation in pronouncing for the American Bronze breed. For profit it is purely a question of obtaining birds of the heaviest possible weight when they are from six to nine months old. No variety is equal to the breed if profit is desired. To obtain turkey cockerels at Christmas, weighing 24 pounds when plucked, and hens 15 pounds in the same state, may fairly be considered good work from poults hatched during the early part of May. No other variety will give such results. Therefore the American Bronze is the breed to select. Not only does this breed produce heavy weight, but quality of flesh is also obtained.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Fruits and Roots—Bran and Middlings vs. Whole Wheat—Clams—Sunflower Seed—Mixing the Morning Mash—Blood—Analysis of Grains—Regularity in Feeding—Gluten Meal.

Hens like clam food.

Keep feed troughs out of the sun.

Avoid heating food during hot weather.

Cotton seed meal is highly nitrogenous.

Rape is considered an excellent green food.

Scald mash over night and feed next morning cold.

Gluten meal of good quality is highly nitrogenous.

One hour after giving soft food remove all that is not eaten.

Rankin says 10 per cent of cotton seed meal can be safely fed to poultry.

C. P. Reynolds says successful feeding is like building a fire. Insufficient feeding proves to be a waste, while an overabundance is not economy.

A. V. Meersch, in *Farm-Poultry*, says cereals are the foods best adapted for fowls. They give a large amount of nutrition in small bulk, and are easily preserved.

Prof. H. P. Wheeler says the protein contents of sunflower seed is high, about equal to that of good wheat bran, and the percentage of fat or oil is over 20 per cent.

Fruits contain but a small quantity of nutritive food, but promote intestinal action, says A. V. Meersch, in *Farm-Poultry*. When given to excess, unripe fruit sets up an intestinal irritation, which must be avoided.

Benj. F. Travers, says in *Rural New-Yorker*, the best egg food is made of equal parts of corn meal, middlings, bran and ground oats and 10 per cent meat scraps. Wheat, buckwheat, oats and barley for noon and night feed.

A. Johnson, Lincoln Park, N. J., a market poultryman, says: "Whole wheat costs one and a half cents a pound; a mixture of bran and middlings can be bought for one cent a pound. For that one cent we obtain more nutriment than is contained in the pound of whole wheat costing one and a half cents."

Fresh blood is highly nitrogenous, and is excellent when mixed with ground grain, says *Poultry Keeper*. If fed daily, five pounds are ample for 100 fowls. It consists largely of water, and is mostly crude protein, dried blood containing 84 per cent., and fresh blood about 90 per cent, less the water.

Various roots are valuable for chickens, particularly so for the amount of starch they furnish, says Mr. Meersch. The most common is the potato, which, when cooked, makes an easily digested food. Owing to the vegetable acid in the potato, it is valuable as a preventative of scurvy and other blood diseases.

Hens being of a nervous nature, they can be harmed by fretting for something to eat, says Iowa *Homestead*. It should be the rule to feed at a regular hour. The hens soon learn to know the time. They keep moving about, worrying, fretting, all the while getting more nervous. To feed punctually on the time, they are not allowed to grow uneasy over worrying.

Gluten meals and feeds are by-products from the manufacture of glucose from corn, says Prof. Phelps, in *Rural New-Yorker*. The greater part of the starch of the corn is separated and converted by a chemical process, into glucose. The different parts of the process of separation leave behind several by-products, nearly all of which are rich in gluten or protein.

P. H. Jacobs says corn has 10.2 per cent protein (nitrogenous) and 75 per cent carbonaceous; oats, 12 percent protein and 65 per cent carbonaceous; bran, 16 per cent protein and 58 per cent carbonaceous; shorts (middlings) about the same as bran; cotton seed meal, 42 per cent protein and 36 per cent carbonaceous. Cotton seed meal is not considered suitable, linseed meal (which contains about the same) being preferred.

J. P. Kimmel, in a private letter published in *Poultry Keeper*, gives this method: "To mix the morning feed, take some small suitable measure and use about four parts of bran, one part of oats, one part of white middlings and one part of corn meal. Reduce the bran more or less as the condition of the fowls require, as corn is fattening and must be fed cautiously even in winter. If at any time the fowls appear loose in the bowels, increase the middlings to four parts, and at the same time reduce the bran to one part, oats one part and corn one part. Then you must vary your feed as your observation dictates."

AN UNPARALLELED RECORD. At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."

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Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO.,
HOMER CITY, PA.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

The Forerunners of Roup—English Remedy for Droopy Fowls—Chicken Pox—Cholera Preventative—Liquid Lice Killer—Swelled Head—Worms—Crop Bound—Lice on Chicks—Canker—Value of Borax—Mustard for Roup—Other Valuable Items.

The forerunners of roup:

Canker,
Sneezing,
Distemper,
Heavy colds,
Swelled head,
Ulcers in mouth,
Discharge from nostrils.
It becomes roup only when a foetid stench accompanies these symptoms.

Isolate the sick.

Quarantine the newcomer.

The top ventilator causes roup.

Contagion flourishes where filth abounds.

Inbred stock are the first victims of disease.

Sprinkle borax around the house and in the nest boxes.

A raw onion, chopped finely, fed to each pen of fowls daily, is a valuable tonic.

Too free use of raw meat is known to have produced bad cases of worms in fowls.

The English remedy for droopy fowls is to feed a little stale bread soaked in ale or porter.

Drevestedt advises anointing the head and vent of the chicks with carbolated vaseline for lice.

The *American Fancier* says sunshine and air in a hen house are great dispellers of disease dangers.

"A sharp and short" war on contagion is the most humane. The best weapon for this fight is an axe.

Gentian, cayenne pepper and asafoetida are remedies especially valuable in their action on the digestive organs.

Rural World recommends taking a tablespoonful of salt, dissolved in hot water, for swelled head. It is to be applied as hot as it can be borne.

Don't worry your brain over the "technical" essays on disease, by a learned doctor, in one of the poultry journals. Our folks want plain words briefly spoken.

Poultry Culture says most of the diseases that affect poultry are the effects of unsanitary surroundings and due entirely to the carelessness or indifference of keepers.

Precautions against these three evils—drafts, dampness and laziness—says *Country Gentleman*, will prevent many ailments and save your flock from possible disease.

Cloud's *Poultry News* says a teaspoonful each of cayenne pepper, salt, alum, vinegar and honey, is said to be a good preparation for canker. Used as a swab for throat and nostrils.

A correspondent in *Reliable Poultry Journal* says a teaspoonful of borax added to a pint of drinking water will purify the latter, destroy fungi, prevent growth of bacteria and collapse micro-germs.

For chicken pox, wash the affected parts with castile soap and warm water. After dry apply hot vinegar and salt, a strong solution, well rubbed in. Two or three treatments should affect a cure.

J. L. Campbell, in *American Poultry Journal*, says the best preventative of cholera he has ever found was to put extract of logwood in the drinking water; make it quite black. The fowls will drink it like they will milk, and it does not hurt them one bit.

To prevent chicken cholera, says *American Agriculturist*, keep the house clean and wash the roosts once a week with a solution made by mixing one part of crude carbolic acid to 100 of water. Also scatter slaked lime around so that the fowls can roll in it.

Mustard is an excellent roup cure, says *California Fanciers' Monthly*. Take 1-4 pound ground mustard, 1-2 teaspoonful cayenne pepper and enough butter and flour to work into pills. Give one pill the size of a common marble, every night, to each roup fowl.

G. A. C. Clarke, in *Poultry Messenger*, says a most effective and cheap liquid lice killer can be made by dissolving a pound of naptalene crystals in one and one-fourth gallons of kerosene. Put the mixture into a jug or can and shake occasionally. It will be ready for use in 24 to 48 hours. Paint roosts and dropping platforms.

A correspondent in *Farm and Fireside* says for crop bound he takes a small oil can and puts a teaspoonful of soda in it. Then he fills up with warm water. This he forces down the throat of the fowl, kneading the crop for half a minute. Taking the fowl by the feet he lets the head hang down, and with the hand works the crop towards the mouth.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Pointers for Successful Brooding—Good Advice by Mr. Rudd—The Value of the Incubator—Stray Items from Experience.

Pointers for successful brooding:

Cleanliness,
Not overcrowding,
Proper ventilation,
Protection of lamp,
Not too high a flame,
Comfortable temperature,
A small covered pan of water.

Test closely.

Use commonsense.

Cheap oil is poor economy.

All outdoor brooders should be placed in an open shed.

Making the chicks exercise is imperative for good growth.

It is a poor machine that requires attention during the night.

Sixteen feet is long enough for an outside run for broiler chicks.

The old style brooding house, with glass in the roof, is out of date.

It requires skill and experience to run a broiler plant on a large scale.

The incubator and the eggs generally get the blame for inexperience.

Individual brooders require more care but generally give the best results.

Keep temperature in incubator as near 103° as possible; better 101° than 105°.

The brooder house should not be higher than strictly necessary to save heat.

A poor brooder will kill chicks faster than a good incubator can hatch them.

Experience is the best teacher in running an incubator, wisely says E. O. Roessle.

Better a fair hatch of strong, healthy chicks than a greater number of weak ones.

Cooper says the usual rate of capacity is five lineal feet of brooders per 100 chicks.

One inch wire under the floors of the brooder house will prevent rats from getting in.

A good incubator needs the assistance of good eggs, a reliable thermometer and a careful man.

Note the fact that in nearly all the show contests with incubators white-shelled eggs are used—they hatch more readily.

W. H. Rudd, in *Poultry Monthly*, says: "We want separate brooders and rooms and yards for each 50 chicks, and we heat each brooder separately."

Chicks in brooders during the summer need no heat, excepting a moderate temperature at night for the first week or two. Too much heat will prove fatal.

For practical purposes, i. e., hatching chickens for market, says the *American Fancier*, the incubator has supplanted the hen, and both hot water and hot air incubators have reached such a degree of perfection that dismal failures to hatch eggs can seldom be laid to the machines.

An incubator is always ready—fall, winter, spring, summer, says W. J. Whitman, in *New England Fancier*. Does not break any eggs, does not allow them to become chilled, does not soil or smear the eggs, does not tread on

any chicks, does not change its mind and quit at the end of two weeks, does not cost any more to run than it does to feed the number of hens necessary to cover as many eggs, does not mean half the work, worry and loss of temper, as compared with hens, and best of all does hatch as high a per cent of chicks.

Mr. Rudd, in *Poultry Monthly* says: "We never warm a brooder house except by the heat which incidentally escapes from the brooders, nor would we warm it even to prevent every chicken from freezing to death, for in that event they escape the troubles of life, while we save the expense of feeding, and can bury them all in one large grave, which we prefer to having them die ten or a dozen at a time, as they surely would from the effects of a warmed brooder house, and involving the bother of several small funerals instead of one large one."

Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.

Pointers on Hens and Chicks that May be of Use to Beginners—Sudden Deaths—Weak Chicks—Lice on Sitting Hens.

And now every hen wants to sit.

Wet weather makes droopy chicks.

The crying chick is practically "a goner."

The happy chick is a lively, chirping fellow.

Chicks when a few days old will eat whole wheat.

Take the hen away when she begins to fight her young.

Once a week lightly oil the mother hen with kerosene.

When a hen begins laying she is apt to leave her young.

Provide a cool, shady place for the setting hen during hot weather.

When the bowels of the chick are loose, they are apt to clog at the vent. Be sure to keep the manure from caking.

W. H. Rudd says: "If you find a chick, twenty-four hours old, that is unable to stand alone, and whose legs seem to have 'gone back' on it, kill it and put it out of its misery. Such seldom live, and if they do, are usually good for nothing. A chicken that is not well hatched had better have remained in the shell."

To drive lice from sitting hens at the time of putting them on eggs, G. A. C. Clarke, in *Poultry Messenger*, advises putting in the nest two or three naptalene balls (moth balls, such as are used in furs, etc.) At the expiration of 21 days the heat from the hen's body will have nearly evaporated the chemical, the lice will have vacated for other pastures, and this without injury to the eggs.

Sudden deaths in great numbers after the chickens are hatched and growing well, are usually due to a lack of vigor on the part of the keeper, says *American Cultivator*. Somebody is too lazy, careless, or busy at something else, to kill the vermin in the coops, give fresh, clean gravel in the yards, and mix fresh, sweet food every time they are fed, and take away all that they will not eat up clean as soon as it is given them.

FRANK B. BARKLEY MFG. CO., 835 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill., will sell you Carts, Wagons, Buggies, Carriages and Harness direct from Factory.



Pioneer Clover Meal is pure clover hay, ground fine by a new process. We use nothing but pure clover, which is the greatest known egg maker. By the use of our meal, hens will lay all winter. It is not cut clover; there is no waste in its use. Send for free sample and book, giving the endorsements of all the leading poultry editors. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25 cts., in sacks. Ask your dealer for it.

The Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Henry Nicolai will shortly restart his Hammon-ton broiler plant.

E. S. Grant, a noted Hammon-ton duck raiser, is about turning his ranch into a broiler plant.

C. P. Reynolds says vigilance wins a thousand successes for the poultryman where "luck" captures one.

Geo. G. Harley, who originated the "celery-fed broilers" on Long View Poultry Farm, Hyatts-ville, Md., has accepted a similar position at Morristown, N. J.

The habitual loafer is a menace to any well regulated poultry farm, and she should be made to do pot service at the very first opportunity. That is Iowa *Homestead's* opinion of the idle hen.

A large hennery, belonging to the University of Maine, was destroyed by fire, together with about 1000 hens and chickens. The fire is said to have been caused by the explosion of an incubator lamp.

C. P. Reynolds says it is not difficult to distinguish the sex of the Guinea fowl. It consists simply in the comparison of wattles, those of the male being over double the size of those of the female.

It is a bad plan to breed more than two years from the same male bird, for there is danger of weakening by the common degeneration which always results from inbreeding, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*.

The *Poultry Herald* thinks poultry raising is like farming. It is not the number of acres owned, but the number properly managed that makes poultry profitable. The small, well-cared for flocks bring the best returns.

Wide range for chickens is not necessary to health, as many poultry writers contend, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*. They can be kept in a good thrifty condition in a very small yard, if they are properly fed and due regard is given to cleanliness.

The kind hearted editor of the *Southern Poultry Journal*, in a recent issue says: "That man who needlessly inflicts pain upon a fowl or any dumb animal, who allows them to suffer for food and attention, is a heathen that ought to be shunned by all decent people."

Poultry for profit and not for a hobby, should be the rule, says the *Wisconsin Farmer*. Even poultry in the back yard can be made profitable if all things are equal. Free range is not necessary to get eggs; exercise and food can be given when fowls are enclosed.

He who aims to make a living by means of poultry culture, must be industrious and hard-working, says the *Poultry Messenger*. But hard work alone will not bring success. Some of the hardest working people in the world make a failure of life. The labor must be wisely directed—in accordance with a well thought out plan.

Breeding for beauty is all right in its place, says *Farmer's Voice*, but where beauty interferes with utility, is the place to let beauty take second place. There are mongrel hens that lay as many eggs as the most prolific Leghorn, but they cannot be depended on to transmit the tendency to their progeny. This is where the mongrel fails.

No man will learn all about the poultry business the first year, says the *Poultry Messenger*. The first year will teach him what he don't know about the poultry business, and knock a good deal of nonsense out of him which he mistook for solid facts. The first year is simply clearing the ship for action, and getting in good shape for business some other year.

The *Poultry Messenger* says the road to success is through a maze of mistakes and failures. The man who trips and falls and lies sprawling on the ground bemoaning the misstep which brought him down, isn't fit for the chicken business, or for much of anything else. The chicken business would lose half of its attractiveness if people of that stamp could succeed in it.

Let us quit quibbling over a few feathers, the color of legs, the exact size and shape of comb and other minor points, and push the poultry enterprise along the line of business for a

while, says *Inter-State Poultryman*. The real value of poultry depends on the quantity and quality of the meat and egg production. These are the important things to teach. That is what A FEW HENS is here for.

Among the reasons why many poultry raisers fail to meet with success when they increase their flocks, the *Baltimore Sun* gives the following: They fail to increase their accommodations in proportion to the increase in the flock; they fail to recognize the fact that large flocks are difficult to feed so that each individual may secure its allotted share; that various ailments have to be guarded against where large flocks are kept that are comparatively unknown among moderate-sized flocks; that large flocks require constant attention. Neglect in the case of a large flock will often be very costly, which with a small flock might not result in any harm. Neglects should not be allowed, however, in any flock.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

The Prairie State Incubator people have just about closed one of the most successful seasons in the incubator trade.

Animal Meal, manufactured by the Bowker Company, Boston, Mass., is now almost universally used by the broiler raisers.

John G. Rosenbery, V. S., Skippack, Montgom-Co., Pa., is offering a gape fumigator, which he claims "kills the things that kills the chicks."

The *Inter-State Poultryman* enters upon its fifth volume with the May issue, and with a change of ownership—D. J. Stalter now having full charge.

Haines Seed Co., Denver, Colo., sent us a sample of their new lice killer, which they term "Nicto Napto." They claim it will kill lice, mites or other vermin on poultry, horses, cattle, "and is the only germicide powder that will destroy bacteria, thereby preventing contagious diseases."

F. J. Billard, Rowayton, Conn., writes as follows regarding the effectiveness of H-O Poultry Feed: "I tried a pen of 14 pullets, from which I had received 119 eggs during the month of February. March 1st I began to feed them H-O for their morning meal, and in the first 14 days of March I had received from the same pen exactly the same number of eggs which I had received during the whole month of February, viz., 119, or an increase of 100 per cent. This pen of fowls were of the same age, and should have commenced to lay about the same time, and while I was getting from three to 5 eggs before using the food, I received from 6 to 10 each day after using it."

Hatch strong chickens. Then keep them healthy and growing, if you want the pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching, mix in their food every other day, Sheridan's Condition Powder. It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs and strong healthy chickens. Persons who succeed best in keeping poultry, commence with little chicks; giving twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder mixed with each quart of food, gradually increasing the dose.

FRANK B. BARKLEY MFG. CO., 835 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Illinois, will sell you a Spray Pump, Gas Engine or Cider Press direct from Factory.

EGGS FOR HATCHING from Barred Plymouth Rocks that are bred for eggs from year to year. No other breed. \$1 per 15; \$5 per 100. Wm. WATMORE, Lenola (Maple Shade P. O.) N. J.

Tilton's Power Job Print,
NORTHWOOD RIDGE, N. H.

100 Envelopes, 100 Note Heads, 100 Tags, sent post-paid, for \$1.40. One M. of each by freight, for \$5.00. Send for prices on other work.

MUST SELL QUICK. Will sell low. One 200-egg Incubator, nearly new. Five Brooders, 300 chick capacity. Thirty thoroughbred Barred and W. P. Rocks, 75c. each. A. E. Hutchinson, Gilead, Conn.

FARMERS! Why not make some money next winter on eggs you are getting now? My recipe for keeping eggs two years, \$1.00; five years, \$5.00. A. S. VAUGHAN, Nos. 321 and 323 Purchase St., New Bedford, Mass.

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Exclusively.
Stock and Eggs for sale at reasonable prices.
HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.

FRANK B. BARKLEY MFG. CO., 835 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill., will sell you a Bicycle or Sewing Machine direct from Factory.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Stock and Eggs at reduced prices now. Write your wants. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	-	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	-	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	-	50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	-	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	-	25 "
Total,		\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

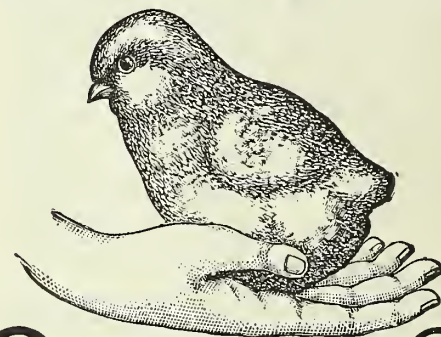
NIAGARA FARM

Offers Fine Stock Cheap.

1898 breeders must go to make room, only \$1 each. Mammoth Pekin Ducks, White Wyandottes, White Leghorns, (S. C.), Light Brahmas. Eggs, 5 cts. each. Also White Indian Games, White Holland Turkeys, White Embden Geese. Young or old, \$2 each. Eggs 20 cts. each. Pekin Ducklings, six weeks old, 50 cts. each. Can be shipped safely. (Circular.)
Pea Fowls, Guinea Fowls.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

HATCH Strong



CHICKENS

Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching mix in their food every other day

Sheridan's Powder.

It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs and strong healthy chickens. Persons who succeed best in keeping Poultry, commence with little chicks; giving twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder mixed with each quart of food, gradually increasing the dose. Sold by druggists, grocers, feed dealers or by mail. Single pack 25 cts. Large can \$1.20. Six cans, \$5. Exp. paid L. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

FREE! We will send post-paid, to any address, Mr. M. K. Boyer's book on Poultry Diseases and Treatment. L. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

Raise Quails.

There is more money in raising quails than in any other branch of the poultry business. Raise them as common poultry, at \$2.00 to \$4.00 a dozen; or raise them for breeding purposes, at \$3.00 to \$5.00 a pair; or raise them as pets, at \$5.00 to \$25.00 a pair. There is always money in them. The introducer clears \$4,000 a year with ease. Send 25 cents for book, (second edition) now ready, explaining everything; also where to obtain domestic birds. Address,

C. GROSS, Bebra, (Morgan County), Mo.

Bargain Sales of Poultry.

To make room for growing stock, we make the following offers:

2 Light Brahma cockerels, 11 months old, \$3 each.
1 Light Brahma cock, about 1 1/2 years old, \$3.
15 Light Brahma hens, yearlings, \$2 each.
3 Light Brahma hens, 2 years old, \$1.50 each.
A few Pekin ducks, yearlings, \$1.50 each or four for \$5.

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Eggs and Fowls in Season.
WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.